

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Fabrizio FABBRI

Art Unit: 3746

Application No.: 10/777,627

Confirmation No.: 5356

Examiner: Peter John Bertheaud

Filed: February 13, 2004

Washington, D.C.

For: HIGH PRESSURE PLUNGER PUMP

Atty.'s Docket: FABBRI=4

Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Date: December 17, 2009

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a **Appeal Brief** in the above-identified application.

[XX] Small Entity Status: Applicant(s) claim small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. §1.27.

[XX] Appeal Brief fee of \$540.00 is required.

[] The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA EQUALS
TOTAL	*	MINUS	** 20	0
INDEP.	*	MINUS	*** 3	0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				

SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
x 26	\$
x 110	\$
+ 195	\$
ADDITIONAL FEE TOTAL	
	\$

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
x 52	\$
x 220	\$
+ 390	\$
TOTAL	
	\$

* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (total or independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment of the number of claims originally filed.

[XX] Conditional Petition for Extension of Time

If any extension of time for a response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore.

[XX] It is hereby petitioned for an extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a). The appropriate fee required by 37 CFR 1.17 is calculated as shown below:

Small Entity

Response Filed Within

[] First - \$ 65.00

[] Second - \$ 245.00

[] Third - \$ 555.00

[XX] Fourth - \$ 865.00

Month After Time Period Set

Other Than Small Entity

Response Filed Within

[] First - \$ 130.00

[] Second - \$ 490.00

[] Third - \$ 1110.00

[] Fourth - \$ 1730.00

Month After Time Period Set

[] Less fees (\$) already paid for ___ month(s) extension of time on _____.

[] Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-4035 in the amount of \$_____.

[XX] Credit card payment authorizing payment in the amount of \$ 1,405.00

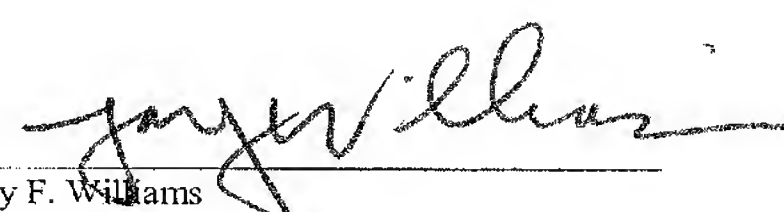
[] A check in the amount of \$_____ is attached (check no.).

[XX] The Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035. This authorization and request is not limited to payment of all fees associated with this communication, including any Extension of Time fee, not covered by check or specific authorization, but is also intended to include all fees for the presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR §1.16 and all patent processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 throughout the prosecution of the case. This blanket authorization does not include patent issue fees under 37 CFR §1.18.

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Fabrizio FABBRI

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HIGH PRESSURE PLUNGER PUMP

Examiner: Peter John Bertheaud

Art Unit: 3746

APPEAL BRIEF

This paper is being submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR § 41.37 to appeal the final rejections of the examiner in the Official Action of March 17, 2009. The brief is submitted with the requisite fee of \$540. A Notice of Appeal was filed on June 17, 2009. The period for response has been extended by four months to December 17, 2009 by petition for extension of time

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Date: December 17, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES.....	ii
I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.....	1
II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES	1
III. STATUS OF CLAIMS.....	1
IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS.....	1
V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER.....	2
A. Independent Claim 14.....	2
B. Dependent Claims 2-6.	2
C. Independent Claim 15.....	3
D. Dependent claims 9-13.....	3
VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL	4
VII. ARGUMENT.....	4
A. Rejection of claims 2-6 and 9-15 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.	4
B. Obviousness rejection of claims 2-4, 9-11, and 14-15 under 35 USC 103(a) over Elliott (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988).	7
C. Obviousness rejection of claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Elliott (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988) and Hagler (US 3,306,214)....	13
VIII. CONCLUSION	14
IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX	15
X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX	18
XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX.....	19

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

<i>In re Gordon</i> , 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)	10
<i>In re Ratti</i> , 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)	10
<i>W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.</i> , 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), <i>cert. denied</i> , 469 U.S. 851 (1984)	10

Statutes

35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.....	2, 3
35 U.S.C. 103(a)	4, 7, 12
35 USC §112, second paragraph	4
35 USC 103(a)	7, 12
37 CFR § 41.37.....	1

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party of interest in this appeal is the assignee, ANNOVI REVERBERI S.P.A., of Modena, ITALY, by way of assignment, recorded in the United States Patent & Trademark Office at Reel. 015357, Frame 0270.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals and interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims pending:	2-6 and 9-15
Claims canceled:	1, 7, and 8
Claims rejected:	2-6 and 9-15
Claims on appeal:	2-6 and 9-15

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

In item 7(a) of the Advisory Action dated June 19, 2009, the examiner indicated that the after final response filed June 10, 2009 would not be entered on the basis that it raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Appellant respectfully disagrees. As noted on page 6 of the June 10, 2009 after final response, the amendments therein were cosmetic in nature and non-substantive. The amendments did not change the substance of the claims. The amendments were made to simply revise the claims to better conform to US form and to address the claim objections and the indefiniteness rejections. For this reason, it is believed that they should have been entered. Nonetheless, since the amendment was not entered, the appealed claims are those last amended per the response filed December 22, 2008. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments in the non-entered after final amendment are not needed to decide the issues on appeal

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The independent claims on appeal are claims 14 and 15.

A. Independent Claim 14.

Claim 14 is directed to a high pressure plunger pump comprising at least two in-line cylinders, each cylinder being provided with a plunger (page 2, lines 1-10; page 5, lines 5-10). Each cylinder is connected via a conduit and valves to an intake manifold and to a delivery manifold (page 4, lines 1-10; page 5, lines 10-21). The cylinders are provided within a single block formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves, with said conduits and with said manifolds (page 4, lines 1-10; page 5, lines 10-21), wherein the intake manifold is positioned in front of the line of cylinders and is in direct communication with the cylinders via a conduit connected to a dead compartment provided as an extension of the respective cylinder and in which the intake valve is located, retained in position by a deformable element, said pump having a delivery conduit with diameter smaller than the diameter of the cylinder (page 4, lines 11-13). Further support for claim 14 can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 6, lines 2-6, and in Figure 2, the abstract, and original claim 1.

No means plus function or step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, are present in claim 1.

B. Dependent Claims 2-6.

Claims 2-6 depend on claim 14. Claims 2 and 3 specify that the intake manifold has its axis coplanar with the cylinder axes and that the compartment containing the intake valve

is cylindrical and coaxial with the respective cylinder, respectively. Support can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 4, lines 5-7, and original claims 2-3. Claim 4 specifies that each cylinder communicates with the compartment containing a delivery valve via two parallel conduits, as supported by the disclosure, for example, at page 4, lines 10-13, and original claim 4. Claims 5 and 6 specify that the deformable element are the actual valve seat sealing gaskets and that the deformable element is an elastic plate, respectively. Support can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 5, lines 14-21 and Figure 5, and original claims 5-6.

No means plus function or step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, are present in these dependent claims.

C. Independent Claim 15.

Independent claim 15 is directed to the same novel pump as independent claim 14 (see the support mentioned above for the recited elements), and further specifies that the intake manifold and the delivery manifold are connected by at least a delivery conduit having diameter smaller than the diameter of the cylinder, as supported by the disclosure, for example, at page 5, lines 22-25, page 6, lines 3-6, and Figures 2-3.

No means plus function or step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, are present in claim 15.

D. Dependent claims 9-13.

Claims 9-13 depend on claim 15. Claims 9-13 correspond to the same subject matter in dependent claims 2-6, respectively, but they depend on claim 15. See the discussion above for the support for these claims.

No means plus function or step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, are present in these dependent claims.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The first issue on appeal is whether claims 2-6 and 9-15 are indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in item 6 on page 4 of the final Office Action.

The second issue on appeal is whether claims 2-4, 9-11, and 14-15 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Elliot (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988) for the reasons set forth in item 8 on pages 4-5.

The third and final issue on appeal is whether claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Elliot (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988) and further in view of Hagler (US 3,306,214) for the reasons set forth in item 9 on page 6.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Rejection of claims 2-6 and 9-15 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Appellant first notes that the amendments in the after final response filed June 10, 2009 (which were not entered) were submitted to obviate the claim objections and the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, without changing the substance of the claims. The examiner denied entry of this amendment on the ground that it raised new issues. Appellant respectfully disagrees that this amendment raises new issues. Nonetheless, Appellant notes that the amendments in the non-entered after final amendment are not needed to decide the issues on appeal, since the claims, as they stood by way of the last entered amendments in the response filed December 22, 2008, are clear and definite.

In the indefiniteness rejection of claims 2-6 and 9-15, the examiner takes issue with the claim language “said cylinders being provided within a single block formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves” in independent claims 14 and 15 for the reasons set forth in item 6 on page 4 of the final Office Action mailed March 17, 2009. The examiner states that “the valve seats can be interpreted as the portions 77 and 83 that element 75 (and the like on the discharge valve) rest upon when not open” and that “these are clearly not part of the single block.” The examiner further contends that nothing in the specification or drawings directs the examiner to “valve seats” that would be a unitary block. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

1. Independent Claims 14 and 15

It is believed that the rejected language of “said cylinders being provided within a single block formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves” of independent claims 14 and 15 is clear and definite when read in light of the teachings in the disclosure and taken with the knowledge in the field. In this regard, MPEP § 2173.02 clearly states:

The examiner's focus during examination of claims for compliance with the requirement for definiteness of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is whether the claim meets the threshold requirements of clarity and precision, not whether more suitable language or modes of expression are available. When the examiner is satisfied that patentable subject matter is disclosed, and it is apparent to the examiner that the claims are directed to such patentable subject matter, he or she should allow claims which define the patentable subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness. Some latitude in the manner of expression and the aptness of terms should be permitted even though the claim language is not as precise as the examiner might desire. [Emphasis added.]

Moreover, MPEP § 2173.02 also clearly sets forth that definiteness of claim language is analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of the teachings of the prior art and of the particular

application disclosure as it would be interpreted by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art.

In this case, the disclosure at page 5, lines 14-21 makes it clear that the noted language means the entire valve is retained in position by a deformable element. At this location, the specification clearly discloses that the intake valve 74 comprises a disc 75 maintained in position by the spring 76; the entire assembly is contained in a known cage 77 which maintains the disc sealing seat in position in accordance with a known construction. Based the disclosure at page 5 and in the figures, it is clear that the valve is mounted through the cylinder 71, before inserting the plunger 6 therein. The cage 77 is maintained in position by a cross-shaped elastic plate 78 inserted in the immediate vicinity of the cage (Figure 5).

Based on this description and the corresponding illustrations in the figures (e.g., Figure 5), it should be clear that there are two deformable elements, namely the spring 76, which maintains the disc 75 in closed position, and the cross shaped elastic plate 78 inserted in the immediate vicinity of the cage 77.

Moreover, it should be clear from the above-noted description at page 5 of the application that there is a valve assembly/unit, comprising all the components contained in the cage 77, and a valve member (the disc 75) resting on the valve seat for closure of the valve.

Further, in this regard, as shown in Figure 3, the reference numeral 75 indicates both the disc and the valve seat.

Based on this disclosure, it should also be clear that the intake valve 75 comprises a disc 74, and therefore the disc is not the valve, and that the term "valve" indicates the valve assembly/unit, comprising the disc 74 and the cage 77. In other words, the intake valve means the whole assembly as is evident from the disclosure. Thus, in contrast to the

examiner's positions, the above-noted disclosure and drawings in the application should make it clear that the term "valve" cannot mean anything but "valve unit/assembly" and it cannot mean the valve member alone.

While the examiner under U.S. practice has the right to interpret words as broadly as possible, the examiner's reading of the intake valve 74 as only the disc 75 is inconsistent with the disclosure at page 5, lines 14-21, which should be understood to mean that the intake valve 74 includes the disc 75, the spring 76 and the cage 77, all maintained in position by the elastic plate 78.

For these reasons, the examiner's position that the valve seats can be interpreted as the portions of 77 and 83 that are not part of the claimed single block is untrue and inconsistent with the disclosure. Again, as discussed above, the specification and drawings describe the valve seats as a unitary block. Thus, it is believed that the language in claims 14 and 15 are clear and definite.

Lastly, it should be noted that the arguments directed to independent claims 14 and 15 are applicable to dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13.

In view of the above, it is believed that the indefiniteness rejection of claims 2-6 and 9-15 is untenable and should be reversed.

B. Obviousness rejection of claims 2-4, 9-11, and 14-15 under 35 USC 103(a) over Elliott (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988).

The examiner rejected claims 2-4, 9-11, and 14-15 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Elliott (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988) for the reasons set forth in item 8 on pages 4-5. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

1. Independent claims 14 and 15 are not obvious over the combination of Elliott and Redman.

The rejection should fall, because the combination of Elliott and Redman fails to teach, suggest or make obvious all of the features of claims 14 and 15 (which are the only independent claims), as required to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The primary inventive element of the claimed invention, as called for in claims 14 and 15 is the feature of the cylinders being provided within a single block formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves, with said conduits and with said manifolds. Appellant respectfully submits that this feature is not disclosed in either Redman nor in Elliot.

The examiner has noted that the difference between Redman and the claimed invention is that all components mentioned by the examiner are not contained in a single block. The examiner has maintained that the missing feature (the single block) is disclosed by Elliot. The examiner takes the position that “. . . it would have been obvious . . . to have modified the assembly of Elliott by placing the inlet manifold in front of a line of cylinders as taught by Redman, in order to have the horizontal passage serve as both a cylinder bore as well as suction passage and to allow the inlet and discharge manifolds to receive and distribute fluid from much different locations on the pump assembly.” Appellant respectfully disagrees.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination suggested by the examiner makes no sense. By simply placing the inlet manifold in front of the cylinder in Elliott's device, the only result would be to have horizontal passage of Elliott to serve as both the cylinder bore and a suction passage. Why would anyone skilled in the art make such a

reconstruction of Elliott? There is simply no reason to do so, and no advantage to be achieved by such a modification of Elliott.

Further, the intake valve seat could be located in the same bore of the cylinder instead of being located in the same bore of the delivery valve, but such a reconstruction would not correspond to the subject matter of main claims 14 and 15. It could not be achieved according to the present invention because the valve has a diameter larger than the diameter of the cylinder bore.

Even if such a reconstruction, as suggested by the examiner, could somehow be accomplished, respectfully denied, it would not result in the claimed subject matter. The problem of allowing the inlet and discharge manifolds to receive and distribute fluid from much different locations of the pump assembly would remain unsolved in such a reconstruction, because it does not depend on the location of the inlet manifold in Elliott.

By contrast, Appellant's main claims 14 and 15, and thus all of the claims on appeal, call for the feature of the inlet manifold and delivery manifold being provided in the same single block of the cylinder. This is a feature which is not shown and is not suggested by the prior art. There is no reason given in the prior art for doing this. Moreover, even if the idea of joining the two parts into a single part had even been thought of, although not shown, such a reconstruction of Elliott would not be possible without other important modifications not shown or suggested by the applied references.

By paying close attention to the general features and design of the two prior art pumps, as disclosed in the references, it should become clear that no teaching can be taken in Elliott to modify Redman to arrive at the claims.

Further, in Redman, there are seven separated parts that would need to be unified in a single block, but this is impossible because forming these parts as a unit in a single block

would make it impossible to assemble the pump. For example, the three separate parts 26, 27 and 22, should these parts be realized as a single block, it would be impossible to insert and lock the valve member. To form the single block as a unit further requires the diameter of the cylinder 19 to be larger than the diameter of the axial bore of the part 26 containing the exhaust valve, and the diameter of 26 to be larger than the diameter of the bore of the part 27 down stream from the exhaust valve. In this sense, it is believed that the Redman actually teaches away from the subject matter of claims 14 and 15.

It is well established that a prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, *i.e.*, as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). M.P.E.P., Eighth Ed., Rev. 6 (September 2007) at § 2141.02, VI. If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959); M.P.E.P., Eighth Ed., Rev. 6 (September 2007) at § 2143.01, VI. Also, if proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984); M.P.E.P., Eighth Ed., Rev. 6 (September 2007) at § 2143.01, V.

Again, in Redman, there are seven separated parts that would need to be unified in a single block, but this is impossible because forming these parts as a unit in a single block would make it impossible to assemble the pump. This would certainly change the principle operation of Redman and/or render the reference inoperable for its intended purpose. This also goes against the very purpose of the claimed pump. Thus, for these reasons, it is

believed that Redman teaches away from the claimed concept and thus it cannot be combined with Elliott to arrive at the subject matter of claims 14 and 15.

Further, Appellant respectfully submits that there is no teaching whatever in Elliot of providing cylinders within a single block together with the seats of the intake valves, with the conduits and the manifolds.

Thus, no combination of Elliott and Redman, even if they were combined, would arrive at each and every element of independent claims 14 and 15.

Another feature of main claims 14 and 15, which is not shown or made obvious by the references either singly or in combination (even assuming the combination were obvious, *ad arguendo*), is the feature that the intake valve assembly is located in the inlet conduit and is retained in position by a deformable element. In this regard, when Appellant uses the word “valve”, it means the whole valve or “valve assembly”, not merely the movable part of the valve or the valve member. Please see the above discussion with respect to the traversal to the indefiniteness rejection. Please also see the specification at page 5, where the elastic member (elastic plate 78) maintains the cage 77 containing the valve assembly (see Fig. 3) in position. In both Elliott and Redman, the elastic means are the elements acting as usual on the valve member alone, and the entire valve, *i.e.*, the valve assembly, is retained in position by rigid means, in Elliott by the tubular member 15 and in Redmen by a bridge which is rigid with the body 26.

Another feature of main claims 14 and 15 not shown by either reference alone or in combination, and thus not achievable by any combination of the references, even if such a combination were obvious, is the feature that the inlet conduit has a diameter smaller than the diameter of the cylinder.

Thus, as pointed out above, there are a variety of differences of the claimed invention over any possible combination of the references, even if it were obvious to combine the references, which it was not for the reasons pointed out above. Appellant again respectfully submits that there is nothing in the prior art which would have made it obvious to even attempt to modify Elliott by anything disclosed in Redman; and if such an attempt were to be made, no practical advantage would be achieved. There would have been no reason for such a combination and even if it were made, the claimed invention would not be obtained.

For these reasons, it should be clear that no combination of Elliott in view of Redman would arrive at each and every element of claims 14 and 15. Therefore, main claims 14 and 15 are believed to be novel and patentable over Elliott in view of Redman.

2. Dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13 are not obvious over the combination of Elliott and Redman.

Claims 2-6 and 9-13 depend either directly or indirectly on main claims 14 and 15. Accordingly, the arguments directed to independent claims 14 and 15 are applicable to dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13 and are reiterated herein by reference. Thus, dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13 are believed to be novel and patentable over Elliott in view of Redman for the same reasons given their dependency on claims 14 and 15.

Reversal of the obviousness rejection of claims 2-4, 9-11, and 14-15 over Elliot in view of Redman is requested.

C. Obviousness rejection of claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Elliott (US 4,618,316) in view of Redman (US 3,427,988) and Hagler (US 3,306,214).

The examiner rejected claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Elliot in view of Redman and further in view of Hagler for the reasons set forth in item 9 on page 6. Appellant disagrees.

The rejection should fall, because the combination of Elliott, Redman, and Hagler fails to teach, suggest or make obvious all of the features of main claims 14 and 15 to which claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 depend, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, the arguments directed to independent claims 14 and 15 are applicable to the dependent claims. In this regard, the above arguments with respect to traversing the rejection of claims 14 and 15 over Elliott and Redman are reiterated herein by reference. As such, dependent claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 are believed to be novel and patentable over Elliott in view of Redman for the same reasons given their dependency on claims 14 and 15.

Further, Hagler fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Elliott and Redman. Hagler was relied solely for disclosing the features of dependent claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13, as Hagler does not disclose or suggest the elements of main claims 14 and 15. Therefore, no combination of Elliott, Redman, and Hagler would provide for each and every element of the claims.

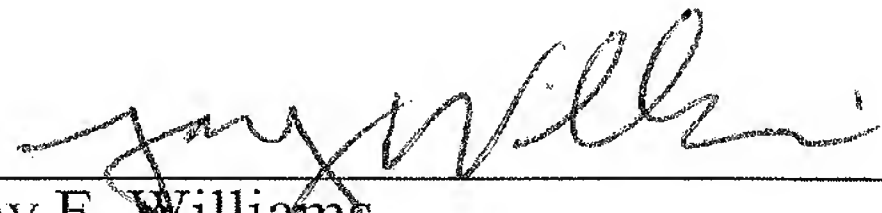
Thus, reversal of the obviousness rejection of claims 2-5, 6, 12, and 13 over Elliot in view of Redman and Hagler is requested.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons, reversal of the examiner and allowance of claims 2-6 and 9-15 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
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IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

This listing of claims includes all of the claims involved in the appeal.

Listing of claims on appeal:

2. A pump as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the intake manifold has its axis coplanar with the cylinder axes.
3. A pump as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the compartment containing the intake valve is cylindrical and coaxial with the respective cylinder.
4. A pump as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that each cylinder communicates with the compartment containing a delivery valve via two parallel conduits.
5. A pump as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the deformable element are the actual valve seat sealing gaskets.
6. A pump as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the deformable element is an elastic plate.
9. A pump as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the intake manifold has its axis coplanar with the cylinder axes.

10. A pump as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the compartment containing the intake valve is cylindrical and coaxial with the respective cylinder.

11. A pump as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that each cylinder communicates with the compartment containing a delivery valve via two parallel conduits.

12. A pump as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the deformable element are the actual valve seat sealing gaskets.

13. A pump as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the deformable element is an elastic plate.

14. A high pressure plunger pump comprising at least two in-line cylinders, each cylinders being provided with a plunger, is connected via a conduit and valves to an intake manifold and to a delivery manifold, said cylinders being provided within a single block formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves, with said conduits and with said manifolds, wherein the intake manifold is positioned in front of the line of cylinders and is in direct communication with the cylinders via a conduit connected to a dead compartment provided as an extension of the respective cylinder and in which the intake valve is located, retained in position by a deformable element, said pump having a delivery conduit with diameter smaller than the diameter of the cylinder.

15. A high pressure plunger pump comprising at least two in-line cylinders, each cylinders being provided with a plunger, is connected via a conduit and valves to an intake manifold and to a delivery manifold, said cylinders being provided within a single block

formed as a unit together with the seats of the intake valves, with said conduits and with said manifolds, wherein the intake manifold is positioned in front of the line of cylinders and is in direct communication with the cylinders via a conduit connected to a dead compartment provided as an extension of the respective cylinder and in which the intake valve is located, retained in position by a deformable element, wherein the intake manifold and the delivery manifold are connected by at least a delivery conduit having diameter smaller than the diameter of the cylinder.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.